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ADVERTISER	FARM AND HOME HOUR	WRITER	
PROGRAM TITLE	UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #381	OK	
CHICAGO OUTLET	WMAQ BLUE		
(11:50-12:30 PM)	(APRIL 12, 1940)	(FRIDAY)	
TIME	DATE	DAY	
PRODUCTION			
ANNOUNCER			
ENGINEER			
REMARKS			

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

ORCHESTRA: QUARTETTE: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: The establishment of our national forest system began back in the 1890's. Originally National Forests were confined exclusively to public lands in the Far West. The need for extending National Forest benefits to parts of the country other than the West was soon recognized, but statutes limiting national forest establishment to lands of the public domain made extension impossible. Lands needing national forest protection and management in all other parts of the country had long since passed into private ownership. It was this situation that brought about the passage of the Weeks Law -- one of the outstanding legislative landmarks in American conservation. Passed by Congress on March 1, 1911, and since liberalized by amendment, the Weeks Law authorizes the United States to purchase lands for national forest purposes wherever their purchase is essential to the national welfare. Land for national forests is purchased with the approval of the State in which the land is located and with the free consent of the land owner. Once a part of the national forest system under administration of the United States Forest Service the land is given needed protection and placed under multiple-use, sustained-yield management for the benefit of all the people.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER: Out in our little town of Winding Creek near the Pine Cone National Forest there's a black rumor going around that the Roberts Brothers lumber mill is about to shut down. And with practically everyone in Winding Creek dependent on the mill in one way or another for their livelihood, a shut-down would mean the most serious kind of tragedy. Winding Creek will become just another deserted ghost town ... But let's get over to the Winding Creek Ranger Station and see what's going on. As we look in on our Forest Service friends today we find Bess Robbins and Jerry at the supper table.

BESS: (FADING IN) My, I wonder what's keeping Jim so long.

JERRY: I'd sure like to know what Jim's up to, Mrs. Robbins. He went off to the Supervisor's office last Tuesday without telling me a thing ...

BESS: I know, Jerry, and then when he called up from Willow Glen this afternoon all he said was he'd be home in time for supper ... didn't ask me how we were getting along or anything.

JERRY: Yeah, and now he's an hour late for supper already. Shucks! He ought to give us some idea of what's going on any way.

BESS: Since Jim heard about the mill closing he hasn't been himself at all, Jerry.

1 JERRY: I know it, Mrs. Robbins. Ever since that rumor about the
2 mill closing got circulated around everybody in town has
3 been on edge. And I don't blame them any either.

4 BESS: It certainly would be a terrible blow to Winding Creek,
5 Jerry. I think how many would be out of jobs. Some of
6 these folks would lose everything in the world.

7 (SOUND OF DOOR OPENING)

8 JERRY: Well for --

9 BESS: Jim!

10 JIM: (COMING ON) Howdy. Anything left for a hungry man to
11 get a hand-out here?

12 JERRY: Where the heck did you come from, Jim? Here we've been
13 watching for you for the last hour and a half.

14 BESS: I should say. We finally decided to go ahead and eat,
15 Jim. What kept you so long?

16 JERRY: Yeah, Jim. Give us the low down. What'd Bert Ellsworth
17 know about the mill closing down? Is there anything the
18 Forest Service can do to help keep it going? When's it
19 actually going to quit operating?

20 BESS: Yes, for heaven's sake Jim. Tell us something. Everybody
21 here is just about frantic!

22 JIM: (AS THOUGH HE HADN'T HEARD THE QUESTIONS. Ah, boy, Bess.
23 Home-cooked food sure looks good! If I had to live on a
24 steady diet of that Willow Glen restaurant grub I'd
25 starve to death.

1. BESS: Well, your dinner's on the stove, Jim. I've been trying
 2. to keep it warm. (GOING OFF) I'll bring it right in and
 3. you can talk while you eat.

4. JERRY: Sure Jim. Sit down. Tell us what you know.

5. JIM: Uh huh ... H-m-m-m. Feels pretty good to be home.

6. BESS: (COMING IN) Here's your plate, Jim. It's still hot but
 7. the meat is dried out. Maybe you can pour a little of
 8. that broth over it. Now, what did you and Mr. Ellsworth--

9. JIM: Anybody just lookin' in here tonight would think I was
 10. the honored guest. Sit down Bess and finish your own
 11. supper.

12. BESS: Well, we're anxious to hear what you and Bert Ellsworth--

13. JIM: (MOUTHFUL) U-m-m. That's good steak. I'm beginning to
 14. feel better already.

15. JERRY: But Jim ...

16. JIM: Huh? Yeah, Jerry. How'd you get along with the District
 17. while I was gone? Anything important take place?

18. JERRY: Dawgornit Jim. We want to hear about what you've been
 19. doing. There's nothing been happening around here except
 20. that every guy and his brother has been in here to find
 21. out if we knew anything about the mill closing. And about
 22. every five minutes Andy Goodman, or Dick Franks or one
 23. of these other business men around town keep calling up
 24. and wanting to know what I've heard from you. Shucks,
 25. there's only one important thing around here now and you
 know it. Is the mill really going to shut down and if so,
 when?

1. BESS: It's been one telephone call after another, Jim.
2. Everybody is just worried sick.
3. JIM: What're they callin' up here for? The Forest Service
4. doesn't own the mill.
5. JERRY: Aw I know, Jim. But these people depend on the Forest
6. Service and most of all they're depending on you. They've
7. got it figured out that you can do something to save 'em
8. and that that's what you went down to Willow Glen for.
9. I didn't know anything to tell 'em. You didn't tell me a
10. dog-gone thing about what you were going to do before you
11. left here and ... well ... by gosh it left me in a heck
12. of an embarrassing position. They've all got the idea that
13. I'm just trying to stall them off.
14. JIM: I sort of figured that's about the way things would
15. shape up.
16. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE RINGING
17. JERRY: See. There goes the confounded telephone again. It's
18. been like that ever since you went away from here. A
19. fella can't even take time out to eat his supper.
20. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE RINGING AGAIN
21. JERRY: Go ahead and answer it, Jim. They want to talk to you
22. and not me any way.
23. SOUND: OF TELEPHONE RINGING AGAIN
24.
25.

1 JIM: I'd rather you answered it, Jerry. Go ahead and see who
2 it is.

3 SOUND: OF RECEIVER OFF HOOK

4 JERRY: Winding Creek Ranger Station. Yeah, this is Jerry ...
5 Who? Yep. Yep. That was him all right, Andy ... I don't
6 know. He's just finishing supper ... You want to talk to
7 him? ... Huh? You don't? Yeah. I see. Just checkin'
8 up ... Uh-huh. Okay ... Okay Andy. So long.

9 RECEIVER ON HOOK

10 BESS: Was that Andy Goodman again, Jerry?

11 JERRY: Yep. That was him again, Mrs. Robbins. He was just
12 checking up this time to see if Jim had got home. Said
13 he thought he'd seen him driving up main street past
14 his store but just wanted to make sure ... Dog-gone it
15 Jim, we can't keep putting these people off for ever.
16 They know darned well you're playing some kind of a
17 hand to keep the mill from shutting down and they're just
18 like me ... they want to know what's going on.

19 BESS: I think Jerry's right, Jim. It isn't fair to keep
20 everybody in suspense.

21 JIM: Noww wait a minute here ... you two. I've hardly been in
22 town long enough to finish my supper. And besides that,
23 Bess, you and Jerry ought to know that we're not in any position to
24 make any statements about what's going to happen to the mill. If Gale
25 Roberts decides he's going to shut the mill down that's his business
and there's nothing under the sun the Forest Service or anybody else
can do about it.

1. JERRY: But Jim! The thing nobody can understand is why the mill
2. should have to be shut down. Even if they keep on clear
3. cutting the way they're doing there's enough timber left
4. in the Roberts Brothers holdings to keep the mill going a
5. few years longer. I can't ...

6. JIM: (BREAKING IN QUIETLY) Got a match, Jerry?

7. JERRY: Huh? Match? Oh ... oh sure. Here ... here's a whole
8. handful.

9. JIM: Make yourselves comfortable ... you two ... and ... um ...
10. um ... um ... as soon as I get this pipe lighted up I'll
11. tell you a little story ... But I don't want either one
12. of you to repeat it ... not even to Mary. People are going
13. to find out about it soon enough but I don't want it to
14. come out of here any way.

15. JERRY: Well gosh, Jim. I won't tell anybody.

16. BESS: Why no, Jim. Of course we won't. What's behind all this
17. trouble any way?

18. JIM: Well, the whole thing revolves around the other brother.

19. BESS: Other brother? Now Jim, don't talk in circles. Tell us
20. the story.

21. JIM: Well, just give me a chance, Bess, and I will. I don't
22. know whether you remember him or not ... he left here a
23. good many years ago and nobody's seen him nor hair of him
24. since.
25.

1. BESS: For heaven's sakes Jim ... who do you mean that left
2. here?
3. JIM: Rafe Roberts, Bess. Gale Roberts brother.
4. BESS: Rafe Roberts? Why yes, certainly! Why Jim, he's the one
5. that was mixed up in some kind of terrible scandal. And
6. then he disappeared and ... why, I thought he was given
7. up for dead and gone years ago. Do you mean he's still
8. alive?
9. JIM: That's exactly what I'm getting at. He's not only alive
10. but he's the one that's caused all this trouble. And the
11. whole thing goes back to Old Man Roberts will. You
12. remember he died right after Rafe disappeared.
13. BESS: Yes, I remember, Jim. The Roberts had that big estate
14. in Willow Glen then.
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1. JIM: Well, the old man had laid up quite a pile of money from
2. all his timber interests. But after all that family
3. trouble, about the only thing that was left was this
4. Winding Creek mill. And the old man willed this to Gale...
5. with one provision. In case the mill and the timber
6. holdings here were ever liquidated Rafe was to get a
7. third of the money ... You know the papers had it and
8. everybody believed that when Rafe disappeared he had
9. jumped in the river and committed suicide. But
10. apparently the family knew that he hadn't done anything
11. like that. They knew he was alive and they knew where he
12. was all along. And after old man Roberts died Rafe went
13. from bad to worse. He got into all kinds of trouble and
14. lost all kinds of money and Gale was the goat. Every
15. time Rafe would get up against it he'd blackmail Gale to
16. get him out. And Gale was a sucker to do it. Some how
17. or other rather than have any more family scandal Gale
18. would dig up the money and send it to him. Every time
19. Gale would send Rafe some money he'd have to mortgage a
20. little more of this Winding Creek property. Not many
21. people around here know it but right now that mill and
22. the Roberts Brothers' timber holdings are mortgaged for
23. a little over two hundred thousand dollars.

24. JERRY: (WHISTLES) Holy old mackinaw!

25. BESS: If old Mr. Roberts knew that he'd turn over in his grave,

1. JIM: Yes. But that isn't the worst of it. The mortgage is due
2. in about two months and Gale Roberts hasn't got a nickle to
3. meet it. If he can't raise that money between now and
4. then, he's just going to have to let go.

5. JERRY: Well, that still doesn't mean the mill will have to close.
6. Whoever holds the mortgage will have to keep on
7. operating to get his money out of it.

8. JIM: That's true, Jerry. But the mortgage is in the hands of a
9. holding company that's planning to come in here and cut
10. out and get out as quick as they can. It'll just delay
11. the thing about two years at the most and then Winding
12. Creek will be done for, for good. All there'll be left
13. around here outside of the national forest will be a lot of
14. deserted shacks and skinned off land.

15. BESS: But isn't there anything the Forest Service can do, Jim?
16. They can't just sit by and see all the timber cut off and
17. the lives of the people here in Winding Creek ruined
18. without doing something.

19. JIM: Well, we've been working on Gale Roberts to put his
20. cutting on a sustained yield basis for years. But he's
21. always been against it and when you see how badly he's
22. been in need of money it's easy to see why. Now there's
23. just a possibility ...

24. BESS: What, Jim?
25.

1. JIM: It's what I went down to see the Supervisor about. If we
2. could buy some of the Roberts' holdings, Gale would be
3. able to meet payments on the mortgage and hold on. But
4. that no-account brother Rafe seems to be putting the
5. pressure on him some way or other to close down and quit.

6. JERRY: Then this brother Rafe is the one that's causing all the
7. trouble?

8. JIM: Yep. Rafe seems to hold the whip hand ... I don't know
9. just how, but it's a certainty that this Rafe has his
10. brother Gale in a tight spot. I wish I could get hold of
11. this Rafe and have a show-down.

12. SOUND OF TELEPHONE RINGING

13. JERRY: That's probably Andy Goodman again wantin' to know if
14. you're through with supper yet, Jim.

15. JIM: Well, I guess I'll have to talk to Andy.

16. SOUND OF TELEPHONE RINGING AGAIN

17. BESS: Well, hurry up, Jim. Central will begin to think there's
18. nobody living here any more.

19. SOUND OF RECEIVER OFF HOOK

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

1 JIM: Winding Creek Ranger Station ... Huh? ... What's that?
 2 Long distance from Cooperstown? ... Yes ... Hello ... Yes,
 3 this is the Forest Ranger at Winding Creek ... Will I be
 4 home tomorrow? I'll be home all day ... About two o'clock
 5 in the afternoon ... That's right. And who's going to be
 6 here? ... (INCREDULOUS) What? Who?
 7 (SOUND OF RECEIVER JIGGLING)
 8 Hello central. You cut us off. H-m-m. All right, No, I
 9 don't want to call him back. No. That's all central.
 10 Thanks.
 11 SOUND OF RECEIVER ON HOOK
 12 BESS: For heaven's sake Jim, who was that calling all the way
 13 from Cooperstown?
 14 JIM: (FLATLY) Rafe Roberts.
 15 JERRY: Rafe Roberts, that no-account brother, coming here to see
 16 you tomorrow afternoon?
 17 JIM: That's right.
 18 JERRY: Well, you were just wishing you could see that guy.
 19 JIM: Yep. I guess the show-down's coming sooner than I
 20 expected.
 21 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers will be back with us next
 22 Friday. This program is presented by the National
 23 Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United
 24 States Forest Service.
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